MR. P. V. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said that it was because no tangible effect was produced by the observations made in the past in the Assembly and in the Council on the subject of public service that he had to take it up again. He asked if it was just to spend eighty-five lakhs of rupees on salaries and travelling allowances out of an income of two crores. The basic principle that as much of the revenues as possible should be spent for the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of the country had been lost sight of. There were several well-qualified Travancoreans in foreign service doing meritorious work and yet foreigners were appointed in Travancore service on fat salaries and allowances. The standards adopted in other civilized countries in the matter of the pay of their officials, *e. g.*, Japan could be adopted here instead of approximating to the standards adopted by the British Government in India.

It was nearly ten years since the Department of Industries was organised. Several experts who had received training in industrial matters were serving in the department. A fairly large proportion of the revenues of the State was also spent that way. But the Travancoreans were not fortunate to see the results of their work. Had these experts gone about the country, instructing the people in new industries and encouraged them to start and work them, the industries would, by this time, have taken firm root in the country.

Officers of the first class motored from one end of the country to the other in a day or two and claimed heavy travelling allowances. This was a matter which should receive the special attention of the Government.

The people as well as the Government knew that bribery and other forms of corruption were prevalent in almost all departments of the State. Dewan Mr. Krishnan Nair Dewan Bahadur, openly admitted its prevalence by saying that, when compared with British India, corruption was not so rampant in Travancore. When the Members pointed out to the Government that there was corruption on the part of their officers, the reply was that the individuals concerned would be proceeded against if specified. This was a reply which would not stand to reason. As the giving and taking of bribe was an offence and the informant himself was liable to be punished, and as it would be useless to proceed against an officer, such matters could be conveyed to the Government only by means of representations in the Assembly in general terms. It was not difficult to enumerate instances. The enquiry into the conduct of the Eraniel Magistrate and the consequences would testify to his statements. The Government themselves had admitted that no officer had hitherto been punished on any charge of corruption. This could not prove the absence of corruption ; and the Government would not themselves be prepared to say that. It had only to be inferred that the Government did not take steps to punish corrupt officers or that they connived at the corruption. In view of the hardships to which the people were subject on account of the corruption in the public service, the Government should bestow their special attention to the matter.

Even though the cry of 'Travancore for Travancoreans' had been raised, it was doubtful if the Government had recognised the rights of the Travancoreans and taken steps in enforcing them through the departmental heads. Foreigners were freely imported into the service by successive foreign Dewans with the result that the natives of the country were denied their birthright. The grievances of the people from foreign Dewans were not few. Foreigners, particularly Europeans, were very costly and their appointments in the service increased the expenditure. If a Travancorean had been the Chief Engineer, he would not have advised the Government that the Kallar Scheme was beneficial to the country. Had the Commissioner of Police been a Travancorean, he would not have permitted the 'student hunt'. The Vernacular of the State suffered by placing one who knew nothing of it at the head of the Education Department. If the education given in the State could not secure to its recipients the higher appointments in the State service while they gave the benefit to another service, there was no use in spending enormous sums of money on it. In regard to the education of the depressed classes, it cannot be said that they were suitably encouraged. The Member instanced the case of a Kammala youth who after passing the B. A. (Hons.) degree examination was not able to get any appointment under the Government.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

It was some time since communal representation in the State service had begun to be claimed. The Nairs themselves advocated it in the Assembly and they had already reaped the consequences. A perusal of the *Civil List* would show how many of the higher appointments were held by Nairs. The policy of the Government in the matter of distribution of official appointments was antogonistic to the community. There was a strong belief among the members of the community that the Government wanted to reduce the strength of the Nairs in the service and to exclude them from responsible posts. That it was no mistake or misunderstanding would be clear on close examination to any one. The continuance of the policy was not conducive to a peaceful administration. When new appointments were created or when vacancies arose, communities which had a support elsewhere and whose claims were put forward by the newspapers got preference. Usually, the Senior Dewan Peishkar was appointed as the Chief Secretary. This practice was deviated from in favour of a person who had in no way any claim to it on the ground of university qualifications or administrative efficiency. In preference to the Senior Judge of the High Court, a senior professor was appointed Principal of the Law College. It was true that he deserved the place on account of his legal acumen and high intellectual ability. But the Member asked if the Travancore Service Regulation would not bind him. These matters should form the subject of consideration for the Government and they should adopt an equitable policy.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, you have said many things very airily, I might almost say, recklessly. Perhaps, you would be able to speak in a much more sober way if I could only find it within my power to put you into my place for just one week. Unfortunately, or fortunately, that is not possible, and even if it were possible, I think it would be too dangerous an experiment to try.

177. Mahomedans and the Public Service.

MR. M. A. NAVURKANI ROWTHER (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Mahomedans merited consideration on the ground of their strength in numbers and their contribution to the revenues of the State. They were behind none in loyalty to the Ruling Family; His Highness the late Maha Raja Sri Mulam Tirunal had expressed it in his reply to the welcome address presented by the Mahomedans of Alleppey. The Dewans also received considerable support from them in carrying on the administration of the country and the Member assured their hearty co-operation with the present administration also.

On account of their backwardness in education they had not been able to get a fair representation in the public service. But in recent times there had been an awakening in the community in the matter of its education, and the Member hoped that during the present regime they would have their due share in the service of the State. In these days when communal representation in the service had become a problem, the Mahomedan community would be entitled to 7 per cent. of the appointments in the service. What the community wanted was no special consideration at the hands of the Government, but their just share in the administration. If this principle was to be accepted, every qualified member of the community would be entitled to an appointment suitable to his educational attainments. But it would not be practicable to provide all of them at once. What was therefore to be done was that, among applicants for a post with equal qualifications, the Mahomedan candidate should have preference. The orders and circulars issued by the Government in the matter did not produce any good. They should be enforced. The avowed policy of the Government was to encourage the Mahomedans; but its working had however not that effect, and that materially affected the educational progress of the community. The Government should therefore give special attention to this matter and appoint the Mahomedan youths who have passed the B. L. degree examination to suitable posts in the service without any more delay. Those who were already in service should also be given suitable promotions. There were some in the Huzur Office, the Account Office and the High Court; but they were not yet confirmed in the posts to which they had been appointed. They should be confirmed and given promotions at the earliest opportunity. A Mahomedan who had

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly